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Proposals for Reduction of Bacon.

[Major General Robert Smith, of "Brandon," Middlesex Co., Virginia, was a member of the council in 1663 (*Hening* II, 201), and probably had been appointed at the Restoration. He is termed "Major General" in 1666 (*Hening* II, 225), was a member of the council, May, 1680 and May, 1683, though at the former date he is styled "Colonel Robert Smith." In May, 1682, he, by command of the governor, committed to prison on board a ship, Major Robert Beverley, who was charged with inciting plant cutting. In this instance he is again called "Major General Robert Smith," and in a letter to the captain of the vessel, communicating the governor's order that all letters written by Beverley shall be read by him (Smith) he says: "I would desire you to shew this order to Major Beverley that he may prevent my looking into any of his letters, which I desire not to doe." Doubtless the part of spy over an old neighbor was not an agreeable one.

As is stated in a note elsewhere in this issue, there is reason to believe that his wife, Elizabeth, was the widow of Sir Thomas Lunsford, and before, the widow or daughter of Richard Kemp. There is recorded in Middlesex a deed dated 4th September, 1684, from "Robert Smith, of Brandon, in the county of Middlesex, Virginia, at the present resident in the city of London, conveying to Gawin Corbin and Roger Borough, of said city, his plantation called The Grange, in Middlesex county." And also in Middlesex a bond dated 2d of Dec. 1684, from Robert Smith to Gawin Corbin, of Grace Church Street, London, and Roger Borough, of London, for goods shipped to the said Robert Smith, of Brandon, Esq., and consigned to his son Mr. Robert Smith, in Virginia, since the father's coming to England. The original will of "Robert Smith, Sr., of the county of Middlesex, Esq.," is preserved at Middlesex, dated May 8, 1683, proved July 4, 1687, by which he gives his whole estate to his son and heir, Robert Smith, Jr. Witnesses: Ann Skipwith, Matthew Kemp, and Mary Michael. It bears an armorial seal, much defaced, which appears to bear two leopard's heads, perhaps the same as the arms of "Smith, of Derbyshire;" but in a deed among the Ludwell papers his seal is perfectly preserved, and in this instance is identical with the arms of "Smith, of Duffield, Derbyshire." Robert Smith, Jr., left, apparently, an only daughter, Elizabeth, who married Captain Harry Beverley, third son of Major Robert Beverley. In Middlesex, January, 1702, Harry Beverley, Gent. and Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Robert Smith, Gent., deceased, petitioned the court setting forth that the said Robert Smith died testate (his will is not of record in Middlesex), and appointed Ralph Wormeley, Esq., and Col. John Armistead, his executors, both of whom were since dead. Harry

and Elizabeth Beverley have many descendants in the names of Robinson, Chew, Stanard, Hooe, Kenner, and others.]

Proposals most humbly offered to his most sacred Ma^{ty} by Tho:
Ludwell and Rob^t Smith for the Reducing the Rebels in
Virginia to their obedience.

It being evidently true that that colloney hath alwayes (and in the worst times) been eminently Loyall to the crowne of England, wee cannot beleieve that the p^rsent disorders have their beginning from any disaffection to your Ma^{ty} or your Governm^t either here or there or that the infection hath seized on any of the better or more industrious sort of people, but from the poverty and uneasyness of some of the meanest whose discontents render them easier to be misledd, and as wee doe truly beleieve this to be the sole cause and foundation of these troubles soe wee are confident that upon the first appearance of yo^r Ma^{ty} resentm^t of their disobedience and your Royall comands on all yo^r subjects there to retourne to that duty they owe to your Ma^{ty} there will be a speedy seperation of the sound parts from the rabble, and many of those who now follow Bacon out of opinion that they doe yo^r Ma^{ty} and the Country service against the Indians, will quit the party when they shall understand it to be rebellion, and the heads of those who att this time abhorre the p^rsent defection will be strengthened by yo^r Ma^{ty} resolucon of vindicateing yo^r Royall authority, and punishing y^e principal offenders ag^t it, to effect w^{ch}, there is (in our opinion) but one of two wayes to be taken, that is, either by such a force from hence as may be superiour to what can be there brought ag^t it; or by a smaller number of men, such as may (if occasion require) assist those who shall be found reddey to obey yo^r Royall comands in the suppression of those who shall be obstinatly rebellious, for the first, as it will be an excessive charge to yo^r Ma^{ty} to transport and maintaine soe great a number of souldiers as may alone reduce those rebels, soe the proceeding soe directly by open force, may drive many (who otherwise would come in upon promise of pardon) to despaire of any safety but in their weapons and may make their reducement much more difficult, to the ruine of that collony; nor (as wee humbly conceive) can there (at this distance) be soe just measures taken of the numbers necessary to suppress this rebellion, till their strength be better known, w^{ch}

possibly may be by a ship now arrived whose letters are not yet come to London, But we being (from our long experience of the country) of the opinion, that the milder way will bee the best to beginn wth wee doe most humbly propose these ffollowing perticulars to yo^r Ma^{ties} Royall consideracon.

First. Whether it will not be more for your Ma^{ties} service that yo^r Royall authority be instified in the in the person of S^r Wm. Berkley before his remooval from the Governm^t, least upon any dislike of a future Gover^r y^e people may beleeeve they have noe more to doe but to mutiny and be rid of him and whether as your Ma^{tie} receaved that rebellious affront in his person it will not be best to keep him in till the rebels are subdued to w^{ch} the affection of all the best men in the country to him wil bee of great use and the confidence the Indians have in his word will (wee doubt not), bring over many to the English party who have been driven from it by Bacon. 2^{ly} that the frigate may proceed directly to James Towne wth soe many men as if occasion require) shee may land 200, and in her 2 or more comiss^{rs} (such if possible as have had knowledge of that plantacon) to enquire into the causes and Grounds of these disorders, wth comand to the Gover^r (after publication of yo^r Royall proclamacon) to call an assembly, wth comand signed by himselfe and your Ma^{ties} comiss^{rs} to all persons who may be thought conserved in the matters to be enquired into, to repaire to that assembly at James Towne upon payn of Rebellion whither if Bacon comes not he will appeare a rebell directly ag^t your Ma^{tie} and will certainly be followed by too few to protect him how ever there may be a lattitude left in yo^r Ma^{ties} instruccons to the Govr^r and yo^r comiss^{rs} to act herein as they shall find most expedient for yo^r Ma^{ties} service upon the place whether if Bacon shall still obstinately persist in his rebellion, it may not be best by some Indian messenger to be sent from those who are yet in peace, to let those nations (w^{ch} he hath soe barbarously used, know y^t he was at that time and still is a rebell and that if they shal bee assistant in the taking or killing him they shall have peace or good tearmes w^{ch} may much conduce to the security of the country from both the Indians and its intestine broyles by assureing them that the murders by him comitted on them were not by your Maties comand and that if they bring him in they shall see him executed.

4th whither it may not be necessary for the p^rvention of such further mischeifs as Bacon and his wicked assistants may act upon intelligence of your Ma^{ties} displeasure ag^t him and them and the provision w^{ch} is makeing here for their reducem^t, that not only what shal bee resolved on be kept private, but because your Ma^{ties} preparacons cannot be concealed, that course be taken here by stoppage of shipp^s till the frigate sayles to p^rvnt and advice of the same.

5^{ly} Whether it will not be necessary to signify your Royall pleasure to the lord proprietor of Maryland that he forthwth send a comand to his officers there not to admitt of or receave any of the inhabitants of Virg^a into his province dureing these troubles, least some to avoyd the p^rsent charge of the warr and others to avoyd the other inconveniences of it may remove soe many as to leave the remainder unable to defend the country ag^t both the Indians and the rebells and whether it may not be necessary to require the assistance of Maryland in case of necessity, and if that be not sufficient then to prohibit all Trade and to keep 2 small frigatts to p^rvent y^e same w^{ch} will soon reduce them, lastly wee most humbly offer to your Royall consideration as the most effectuall to reduce that collony to a lasting obedience that those graunts w^{ch} have and still doe soe much disturb their mindes may be taken in and their just priveledges and properties settled for the future on a sollid foundacon the feare of forfeiting w^{ch} would keep them in perpetual awe.

These consideracons we most humbly lay at your Ma^{ties} feet beseeching yo^r Ma^{tie} to beleve that if any part of them shall be offensive to you wee are most heartly sorry our zeal to yo^r Ma^{ties} service and the peace of country hath for want of judgment in us been misledd and humbly begg yo^r Royall pardon for the same.

[signed]
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THO: LUDWELL,
ROBT: SMITH.

[Indorsed.]

Proposalls to be humbly offered to his Ma^{tie} for the reduction of the Rebells in Virg^a.